

CAANS NEWSLETTER BULLETIN DE L'ACAEN

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF NETHERLANDIC
STUDIES

ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
POUR L'AVANCEMENT
DES ÉTUDES NÉERLANDAISES

August 2007

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Editorial

BY BASIL KINGSTONE

The Orde van den Prince's Nieuwsbrief for May-June 2007 has interesting articles on language and dialect. We note for one thing that a "dialect" in southern Limburg has only recently been examined, and found to be a language in its own right, developed in isolation. Though Germanic, it has French syntax, using more reflexives and tending to give the result of an action rather than the action itself. One sees both tendencies in the example *Op huu kunt [= komt]'t zich mit d'r tsog got an*, (literally: today it *arrives* itself there well by train, i.e. you can *go* there easily). More and more people are speaking this language. But then dialects in Flanders continue to influence the spoken language, which is not dialect, but not standard Dutch either (that has been felt as a foreign imposition). It is an intermediate language sometimes called *Soapvlaams*, because commercial radio and TV use it outside of news broadcasts.

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The CAANS Newsletter appears three times a year (April, August, December). It is a publication of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Netherlandic Studies and is free to all the Association's members.

Le Bulletin de l'ACAEN paraît trois fois par an (avril, août, décembre). C'est une publication de l'Association canadienne pour l'avancement des études néerlandaises, dont les membres le reçoivent gratuitement.

Items for the Newsletter should be sent to me, the editor. I can be reached by all the ways listed on the title page. It simplifies my job if I can receive copy as an attachment to e-mail, in WordPerfect or Word.

Pour publier dans le Bulletin, prière de m'envoyer votre texte par un des moyens indiqués sur la page de couverture. Cela m'aide dans ma tâche si le texte est sous forme d'attachement à un courriel en WordPerfect ou Word. Merci!

MINUTES of the annual meeting of CAANS held in room COMM 12 at the University of Saskatchewan at 3.15 pm on Saturday May 26, 2007.

12 people were present, and thus there was a quorum.

1. The **minutes of the 2006 meeting** were approved (van Wermeskerken/Feldman).

2. Matters arising. Further to the President's report of last year, Rosemieke van de Meerendonk of the Dutch Embassy in Ottawa told him that the ambassador was prepared to approach corporations to get us funding for conferences. There was also the possibility of extra funding for visiting speakers (Geert Mak is a possible speaker); it was agreed that Mary Eggermont-Molenaar is the person to look into this.

3. President's report. Michiel made the annual application for funding to the Taalunie, who increased the amount for the Journal and paid for two speakers as well.

4. Secretary-Treasurer's report. Last year our expenses exceeded our income by \$6000; the result of this year's exercise will likely be similar. Our keynote speaker could not come this year, and we do not know if the Taalunie will ask for a refund (assuming the speaker had travel insurance...); the best plan seems to be to propose an alternative use for the money, e.g. subsidizing the special issue of the Journal on the Age of Rembrandt. The last time we raised the membership fee, we lost members and our income remained the same. Paul has already sent out a letter advising that names will be removed from the list of members who did not pay since 2005; a letter doing the same to those who have not paid since 2006 is to go out with the next Newsletter. A line will be added to the membership form inviting voluntary contributions, which are tax-deductible.

We consider going to entirely virtual publication, with a fee for downloading the current issue to be collected by Papal. And above all we consider ways and means of fundraising (see Other Business below, the creation of a Renewal Committee). It was moved (Eggermont-Molenaar /Dierick) to adopt the secretary-treasurer's report. Carried.

5. Editor's report. Two Journal issues and three newsletters were published during 2006. In future as many members as possible will receive their newsletter by e-mail; only about 20 members don't have it, and Paul's Excel list will serve as a mailing list. It was moved (Kingstone/Gerrits) to adopt the report. Carried.

6. Election of officers.

- a. Paul de Laat was nominated (Dierick/van Wermeskerken) to be the secretary-treasurer for a further two-year term, and agreed.
- b. Gus Dierick was nominated (de Laat/Gerrits) for a further three-year term as archivist, and agreed.
- c. It was moved (van Wermeskerken/Feldman) to amend the constitution to allow for any officer in his or her second or fourth year of office to serve for one more year if needed. Carried.
- d. It was moved (Nijhof/van Wermeskerken) to extend Michiel Horn's term as president by one year. Carried.
- e. It was agreed to amend the constitution to reflect the fact that we have five

members at large.

7. Next conference. It will be held at the University of British Columbia on May 31 and June 1, 2008. The overall theme will be “Thinking beyond borders – global ideas, global values.” It was moved (Kingstone/ Eggermont-Molenaar) that Herman van Wermeskerken be our local representative there. Carried.

8. Other business.

- a. It was moved (Dierick/Kingstone) that we express our condolences to John Michielsen’s widow and our appreciation for all his work with CAANS. Carried.
- b. It was moved (Eggermont-Molenaar /Dierick) that we express our appreciation of the loyal services of our Webmaster Peter Lowensteyn. Carried.
- c. The following were selected to serve on the Renewal Committee: Paul de Laat, Tim Nijhof, Basil Kingstone, Peter Lowensteyn, Gus Dierick. The committee should report with a plan of action by Labour Day.
- d. The meeting noted the kind offer of AADAS to meet with them in 2009 at Redeemer College. Unfortunately we will be meeting at the University of Ottawa. It was agreed that we should ask them if they can meet on dates which don’t clash with our meeting, so that our members can attend.

The meeting adjourned at 5 pm.

Basil D. Kingstone,
Editor.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF NETHERLANDIC
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FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006

Credits

Balance January 1, 2006	\$15,314.87
Membership and Journals	\$ 4,213.74
Nederlandse Taalunie	\$ 4,395.27
Dean of Arts, Windsor (Deducted from Journal production)	\$ 500.00
Interest	\$ 141.91
CANCOPY	<u>\$ 581.01</u>
	\$ 25,146.80

Debits

Conference and speakers	\$ 4,338.72
Journal and Newsletter (+\$500 from Dean of arts)	\$10,743.87
General Expenses	\$ 307.47
CELJ and CALJ Membership	\$ 131.56
Website	\$ 287.56
Bank charges	<u>\$ 44.36</u>
	\$ 15,853.54

Balance on January 1 2006	\$15,314.87
Interest GIC	\$ 71.46
Expenses over Receipts	<u>-\$ 6,021.61</u>
Balance on December 31, 2006	\$ 9,364.72

(Present Value of GIC \$7,149.49)

Members' Equity

Balance on December 31, 2006	\$ 9,364.72
In trust	\$ 2,175.91
Reserved for two issues of Journal (based on 2006 costs)	<u>\$ 6,700.00</u>
	\$ 488.81

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1 – April 30, 2007

Credits

Balance January 1, 2007	\$9,364.72
Membership and Journals	\$1,803.01
Nederlandse Taalunie	\$6,539.55
Copy Rights	<u>\$37.00</u>
	\$17,744.28

Debits

Journal and Newsletter	\$1,320.78
General Expenses	\$196.51
Website	\$127.20
Bank charges	\$21.49
CALJ Membership	\$39.00
Conference and Speakers	<u>\$3,411.37</u>
	\$5,116.35

Balance on January 1, 2007	\$9,364.72
Expenses over Receipts	<u>\$3,263.21</u>
Balance on May 22, 2006	\$12,627.93

BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 2007

Revenues:

Membership and Journals	\$ 2,000
Nederlandse Taalunie	\$6,539
Cancopy	\$ 500
Dean of Arts, Windsor	\$ 500
From Trust Fund	\$ 300
Interest	<u>\$ 200</u>
Total	\$10,039

Expenses:

Conference and speakers	\$ 4,400
Newsletters and Journals	\$10,500
Travel, Editors	\$ 400
Advertising, Website	\$ 200
Bank charges	\$ 50
General Expenses	<u>\$ 250</u>
Total	\$ 15,800

NEWS FROM CHAPTERS MONTREAL

Ook dit seizoen kon CAANS-Montreal weer een volledig programma aan de leden presenteren.

In september 2006 begonnen we met de vertoning van de film *De Poolse Bruid*, onder de regie van Karim Traïdia, met Monic Hendrickx, Jaap Spijkers, Rudi Falkenhagen en Roef Ragas.

In oktober gaf Caroline Han, voormalig docent bij de vakgroep Kunsteschiedenis van de Universiteit Leiden een zeer interessante lezing over Rembrandt. Deze lezing was georganiseerd met medewerking van CAANS National.

Een paar weken later sprak Hans van Hell over *Broome's One Day War*. Terwijl in 1942 de Japanse opmars aan de gang was, slaagde een kleine groep erin dat lot te ontvluchten. Zij werden via een luchtbrug vervoerd, o.a. aan boord van Catalina en Dornier watervliegtuigen van de Nederlands-Indische luchtmacht, via Broome – een slaperig klein havenstadje in het noordwesten van Australië – naar Perth of Sydney in het zuiden. Deze operatie verliep zeer voorspoedig tot de noodlottige ochtend van 3 maart 1942.

In november gaf Peter Löwensteyn een lezing over de sociale geschiedenis van een kleine, bijna onzichtbare, groep in Quebec; de Nederlanders! Hij presenteerde een onderzoek naar de geschiedenis van de Nederlanders in Quebec gedaan door zijn vrouw Janny in de jaren tachtig, aangevuld met zijn eigen onderzoek over de periode van 1980 tot heden.

Zoals gewoonlijk hadden we in december onze speciale bijeenkomst *Onder de koepel* bij Pieter Sijpkens thuis.

In januari 2007 organiseerde Peter Tijssen voor ons een presentatie van *Wim Kan op oudejaarsavond*.

De februari lezing door Co Hoedeman moest tot zijn spijt wegens zeer drukke werkzaamheden worden uitgesteld. In plaats hiervan gaf Petra Tjitske Kalshoven een zeer interessante cultureel-antropologische blik op een "spel" voor volwassenen, getiteld: *Winnetou voorbij: in het spoor van de serieuze Europese Indianenliefhebber*.

In maart sprak Claude Meere over de *Boerenkrijg van 1798*. Honderdvijfennegentig jaar geleden kwamen "boeren" in de Zuidelijke Nederlanden in opstand tegen het Franse Bewind. De Brigands, zoals de opstandige boeren genoemd werden, zijn de enigen geweest in de drie eeuwen sinds de scheiding tussen de Noordelijke en Zuidelijke Nederlanden die, ten aanzien van de hele toenmalige wereld: Frankrijk, Engeland, Oostenrijk, Pruisen en Rusland, krachtadig getuigenis hebben afgelegd van de levenswil van een volksgemeenschap.

In april sprak Robert Kok over het ecosysteem van de Nederlandse Waddenzee. De rij eilanden die de noordelijke kust van Nederland vormen sluiten een heel apart ecosysteem in. De Waddenzee is belangrijk voor de instandhouding van de Nederlandse kust en is ook van groot biologisch en sociaal belang. Robert vertelde ons over het gebruik van dit ecosysteem door vissers, sportliefhebbers en vakantiegangers en ook over de bescherming en het in stand houden van het gebied door wettelijke maatregelen.

In mei vertoonden we de Belgische film *Hop* van regisseur Dominique Standaert. Hop is een eenvoudig verhaal dat op alle vlakken op en top Belgisch is. Justin, een kind uit Benin, woont samen met zijn vader in Brussel. Ze zijn in België terecht gekomen zonder officiële documenten. Ze worden aangeklaagd. De vader wordt aangehouden en terug gezonden naar Benin. De jonge Justin vindt onderdak bij een zekere Frans die alles gaat doen om de vader terug te vinden en de situatie van vader en zoon te regelen.

We besloten het seizoen met de nu traditionele juni ledenvergadering en BBQ bij Peter en Trics Tijssen thuis. Het bestuur werd in zijn geheel herkozen en ook voor het komend jaar kunnen we weer een interessant programma aanbieden.

In de afgelopen jaren verzorgde Jan Beckman het Montreal Report. Jan is in april overleden. We zullen hem zeer missen. Hij stond bij de wieg van CAANS-Montreal en is altijd een zeer actief lid geweest, die onze vereniging in verschillende functies met veel enthousiasme heeft gesteund.

Peter Löwensteyn

VANCOUVER

The chapter report which I received in May reports that the Dutch Consul-General in Vancouver, Hans Driessen, was invited to speak to the Port Moody Heritage Society on Canada Day in connection with the theme chosen for that day, "Port Moody 1945, the end of a perilous journey," which refers to the return of local Canadian troops from the campaign of liberation of the Netherlands. He is also providing an exhibition of material from the Nederlands Instituut voor Oorlogsdocumentatie.

The report continues:

Op 12 april sprak voor ons ons medelid Jos van Stekelenburg over "Mondriaan's Portret van een Klein Meisje", en hoe het terecht kwam in de Vancouver Art Gallery.

In 1892, op 20 jarige leeftijd, ging Mondriaan studeren aan de Rijksacademie voor Kunsten in Amsterdam. Twee jaar later schilderde hij dit portret. Het kleine meisje was Dorothy, het 3 jarige dochtertje van Dr Biersteker, arts, en zijn Engelse vrouw, een Engelse lerares. Zij werd tweetalig opgevoed, studeerde rechten in Leiden, en werd in 1916 aangesteld als rechtskundig adviseur voor de repatrierende Canadese soldaten die door (neutraal) Nederland kwamen, en waar zij haar Canadese man ontmoette. In 1919 vertrok zij met hem naar Canada en kwam in Ladner terecht! Haar man werd hoofd van een school en zij ging de politiek in , en werd o.a. een baanbreker

voor de rechten van de vrouw.

In 1934, na het overlijden van haar moeder, erfde Dorothy het portret en gaf het ter bewaring aan de Vancouver Art Gallery toen deze opende in 1935. In 1966 werd het door hen gekocht voor \$3000! Zij bleef sociaal actief tot aan haar dood in 1978. Al haar schrijven en manuscripten, alsook persoonlijke brieven en foto's zijn te vinden in de archieven van U.B.C.

Ook gaf Jos ons een overzicht van Mondriaan's persoonlijke en artistieke ontwikkeling: zijn vroegere landschappen (in de stijl van de "Haagse School"), na 1917 zijn bekende abstracte neoplastische creaties in wit, rood, geel en blauw (hij haatte groen!), zijn Parijse tijd (waar Mondriaan Mondrian werd), en zijn laatste jaren in New York, waar hij zich verdiepte in Jazz, Blues, en de "Boogie Woogie" (met nieuwe kleuren en zonder zwarte lijnen geschilderd!). Hij overleed in New York in 1944.

Hartelijk dank Jos voor je interessante en kleurrijke lezing!

Op 10 mei sprak voor ons Mitzi Kirkland-Ives, lecturer aan U.B.C., over "Hans Memling's International Clientele".

We think of Hans Memling as a 15th century Flemish painter from Bruges, but he was actually born in Germany, near Mainz, where he received his early training. From there he moved to Bruges, at that time an important international city, on a par with London (by 1600, however, Antwerpen had taken over that role).

In the international district lived Florentine, Genoese, Venetian, German, French, Spanish and other foreign merchants, for whom Memling painted beside the local clients. He was especially popular with the Italians, through the directors of the Bruges branch of the Florentine Medici bank, and many of his paintings ended up in Italian churches, as well as in Spain, Germany etc. (one painting shipped to Italy was pirated and ended up in Gdansk!). He never worked for the Burgundian court, but mainly for the rich merchant middle class. His works consist mainly of religious works (altarpieces, triptychs) and many portraits.

It was an interesting evening, richly illustrated with slides, commentary and humour (Saint Peter greeting the people at the gate of heaven: "Don't worry, you'll get your clothes back"). Thanks, Mitzi..

Saskia Stomps..

AANS

Their spring 2007 newsletter came to hand just after I sent out our last one. These things tend to happen. They are thinking of putting their newsletter on their website instead of sending it to members; if they put up items as they reach AANS's editor, that would be very helpful.

I have mentioned before that the next ICNS conference will be held at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill next year. Its theme will be "Het nieuwe Nederland: identiteit en integratie." In the meantime the German Studies Association is holding its annual meeting in San Diego on October 4 – 7, at which there will be a session on "Identity, translation and Literature in Germany and The Netherlands" with papers on Nico Rost, Cees Nooteboom and Harry Mulisch as German authors, and "Leon de Winter and the 'new Dutch intolerance'." The German-Dutch connection will also be featured at the next MLA meeting (Chicago, December 27 – 30), at which speakers will discuss Multatuli and E.T.A. Hoffmann, the Belgian avant-garde in Weimar Berlin, and the German-speaking community in Belgium.

Apart from summer schools and one travelling exhibition (the last stop for "Rembrandt and the Golden Age: Masterpieces from the Rijksmuseum" is in Portland, Oregon, where it will be till September 16), the newsletter contains two book reviews. Foreseeably in this year, both are about Rembrandt and come from the great publisher of books on him, Amsterdam University Press. Eric Jan Sluijter's *Rembrandt and the female nude* explains that every age has its ideal female shape and that Rembrandt's realistic heavy bellies, hips and thighs is in accordance with Dutch taste of the time. His nudes are also "emphatically tactile," as if to tempt the viewer (the way Bathsheba and Danae, in the stories Rembrandt illustrates, seem tempting to gods and kings). Marijke deWinkel's *Fashion and fancy. Dress and meaning in Rembrandt's paintings*, on the other hand, shows the importance of details of clothing in Rembrandt's portraits of contemporaries. For his self-portraits and historical characters, however, he used elaborate clothes, often in out of date styles, and sometimes had to rely on prints and written descriptions and his imagination.

DUTCH CROSSING

Volume 30 no. 1 (Summer 2006) contains papers from the 2004 ICNS conference at Minneapolis and the January 2006 ALCS conference at UC London. Those with the program for one or the other, or a good memory, can no doubt work out which conference had the pleasure of hearing which papers. The first one printed here is by Jane Fenoulhet (UC London) and has a fine title: "Wandering men and wayward women: stirrings of nomadic subjectivity in 1930s Dutch literature." She begins by defining two possible extreme results of a wandering life: stagnation in misanthropy (Van Schendel) or loss of all personal identity (Slauerhoff). No such simplistic extremes occur in Jo van Ammers-Küller's novels, whose heroines break out of their confined family lives and "develop mobile and multiple selves" as a suffragette (*Vrouwenkruistocht*) or a soldier in Napoleon's army (*Elzelina*). Sofie Gielis (VU Brussels) presents the even more complex case of the contemporary author I.M. Februari, who claims no unity of character nor even of gender (she has different pen names, male or female, depending on her topic). Pascale Bos (U of Texas) looks back at Andreas Burnier (1931-2002), a woman writer

who also discussed gender roles and gender relations, in the 1960s and 1970s. (Note the male pseudonym). Her views on gender and sexuality (she wrote frankly about being lesbian) evolved constantly and were always years ahead of public opinion.

Luc Renders (U Hasselt) discusses the Afrikaans writer Antjie Krog (b. 1952). For more than thirty years, in a wide range of works that include her translation of Nelson Mandela's autobiography and a complete account of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, she has untiringly worked to create a nation where all human beings are treated as the same regardless of skin colour. To the status of women is thus added the question of the status of the colonized.

Two papers, not surprisingly, are devoted to Cola Debrot's novella *Black Sister*. The paper by Joe Delap (Jacksonville SU), using feminist and postcolonial literary criticism, concludes that the central couple, Frits and Maria (a white man and a black woman who are half-siblings), learn to have towards each other attitudes consistent with a new postcolonial country; Deonne Minto, drawing on studies of colonial economic theory, concentrates on Frits's intention to take over Maria as part of the plantation, a dream which proves impossible; her reading of the enigmatic last sentence is thus less optimistic. Katie Featherstone (UC London) compares Multatuli's and Joseph Conrad's experiences of colonial regimes. Conrad was born under one – Russian rule in Poland – and hated them all, to the extent that he perceived them as merely exploiting the colonized (but he thought the British did more good than harm) We may see this as an *a priori* position, which his experience in the Congo and Borneo confirmed. Multatuli went to the East Indies because he couldn't stand the Netherlands, and his experience taught him the same thing. Both authors create central characters who are isolated from other Europeans and feel superior to them, but are aware that they can never be local people either

The issue now turns to literary topics. Koen Rymenants (FWO-Vlaanderen/KU Leuven) traces the critical discussion around Willem Elsschot. Launched in the 1930s by the *Forum* group (Menno ter Braak, Jan Greshoff) as an innovative writer who used irony, he was attacked by Catholic critics as cynical – but they failed to distinguish between the author and his characters. This supposed characteristic of his was seen as anything from the sad defence of a sensitive soul to a realism finally freed from all vestiges of romanticism, and it was identified in some other writers as proof of his influence. All these suppositions need examination. Anne Decelle (KU Leuven) discusses “Stevens op Zondag”, part of the thematically unified volume of poetry *Muziek voor de overtocht* (1994) by Stefan Hertmans. It is a reflection on Wallace Stevens's long poem *Notes for a supreme fiction* (1942) and speaks of a return to plain reality in poetry in order to release a pure vision of things. The reading is closely argued and repays thought.

The final topic of this issue is language teaching and the role of teaching intercultural skills within that. Miranda van Rossum and Roel Vismans (U of Sheffield/U of Hull) report on their detailed questionnaire on this topic, to which eleven professors in Dutch programs in English-speaking universities responded. It was learned that the importance accorded to cultural studies varied, that discussion was the usual way it was handled, and that teachers tended to talk about the country, and the aspect of its culture, that they had personal experience of. Some of the respondents also took part in online discussions, and from these it emerged that the most

systematic approach to other cultures (and in effect, the one used by those teachers who claim not to be systematic about it) compares the students' own culture with the other one to arrive at a more nuanced understanding. The issue also offers a review of a new intensive Dutch course book (by Gerdi Quist, Christine Sas and Dennis Strik, New York: Routledge, 2006). From the beginning it insists on the style and tone of what is said, a hard but high road to idiomatic use of Dutch.

Vol. 30 no. 2 (Winter 2006) arrived hard on the heels of the Summer issue. Its first two articles deal with the history of the mid-17th century. Jill Stern (UC London) shows from her reading of political pamphlets that, contrary to what has been believed, Calvinist support for the restoration of the Stadholderate (in the hope of gaining support for a national church and less tolerance of other denominations) did not mean the Orangists were all pro-Calvinist. Elizabeth Edwards (U of Kent) has read pamphlets attacking the restored Stadholderate, which blame William III's grand pensionary Fagel for the cunning legal advice he gave to permit legal freedoms to be limited. Seventy years later these pamphlets were cited to sing Fagel's praises and thus ensure his family a secure place in public service for some generations.

Dorothee Sturkenboom (VU Amsterdam) traces the fortunes of merchants as characters on the Dutch stage. In the 16th century they were castigated for greed; in 17th-century farce this greed is shown as making them gullible. The collapse of a stock market bubble in 1720 produced a number of plays which criticized both gullible shareholders and the rogues who fleeced them. The boastfulness and cowardice of the latter is in the tradition (ever since Plautus) of the boastful warrior.

Michiel van Groesen (U of Amsterdam) reports on an early modern international trade. The de Bry family of Frankfurt published a monumental collection of travel accounts, many of them by Dutch explorers. However, to make the tale more dramatic, they tended to add illustrations of their own invention, and imagined strange exotic scenes not justified by the text – which scenes, being popular with readers and being good copper engravings, found their way back into Dutch editions! Equally international was the career of Daniel Nijs, as told by Maartje van Gelder (U of Amsterdam). Nijs was a Dutch trader in Venice, negotiated the sale of the important art collection of the Duke of Mantua to Charles I of England, was a customs officer and the Swedish ambassador, opened his house to Calvinist worship, contributed to the Venetian war effort against the Habsburg empire, and spied on Venice for the Spanish.

Julien Vermeulen (U de Lille III) does a thorough classification of the extensive Flemish literature on the Belgian colonization of the Congo. He calls his article "Where Belgians did not fear to trade," but trade has very little to do with it and "tread" might have been more appropriate. Very summarily, we may say that almost all writers assume the "white man's burden" is to save Africans' souls (thanks to missionaries) and bring them the benefits of civilization; few see it as a brutal assertion of power. Some describe the actual culture of an African tribe, some see noble savages or highly sexed women. Since independence, others have visited the country and been disappointed by the corrupt dictatorship.

Nele Bemong (KU Leuven) applies Bakhtin's concept of the chronotope (time and space and

how they are represented in various subgenres of the novel) to *Arnold van Schoorisse* (1845) by Joseph Ronsse, the second author to write Flemish nationalist novels, Hendrik Conscience being the first. The novel proves to be basically an adventure story, in which time and place are not much fleshed out and the action is the important thing. Indeed, love is the mainspring of this adventure novel, for it is a feud caused by rivalry in love, and not political leanings, which leads the main character to change sides in the uprising of Ghent against the Count of Flanders in 1382. Elke Brems (KU Leuven) also writes about Flemish literature and nationalism, but in the contemporary world. Have present-day writers promoted the view that the Flemish people are “culturally specific and homogeneous?” Yes and no. Hugo Claus’s *Het verdriet van België* seems for 200 pages to be a nostalgic view of the Flemish past, but then it turns out that we have been reading an essay by “a young fantasist trying to hide the confusion and chaos he experiences in reality.” Stefan Hertmans’s *Naar Merelbeke* is by a known post-modernist and is therefore mostly read as a deconstruction of novels that wistfully recall a village childhood, “but since it constructs before it deconstructs it is more ambiguous than that.” And likewise Leo Pleysier’s use of Flemish is not simply a form of *couleur locale*, it is “a criticism and an ode, a curse and a homage.”

Lastly, Bas Jongenelen (Fontys U of Professional Education, Tilburg) and Ben Parsons (U of Sheffield) offer their translation of *De droom van Rovere*. Anthonius de Rovere (1430-83), a *rederijker* and official poet of Bruges, wrote this poem on the momentous death in battle in 1477 of Charles the Bold, a model of aristocratic values, whose duchy of Burgundy (but not his Low Countries possessions) then became part of France. Rovere’s poem probably influenced the better known poem of Olivier de la Marche on the same topic, *Le Chevalier délibéré*.

Four books are reviewed in this issue. The first is the ICNS proceedings from Ann Arbor, *The Low Countries, crossroads of cultures*, which I reviewed in our latest Journal issue (XXVII i, 55-58). The reviewer detects in the collection the movement towards a more international focus which can also be seen in three other recent volumes of conference proceedings, and in the ALCS papers published in the last *Dutch Crossing* (see above). He regrets, however, that the American volume has nothing on language, which he considers inseparable from literature and society as elements in the teaching of Dutch. The second book reviewed is Donald Sinnema’s *The first Dutch settlement in Alberta*, which was volume XXV of our Journal. It should, says the reviewer, be “welcomed by historians and genealogists alike” and “turn[s] the spotlight on an era that has been largely ignored by scholars” of immigration, who have concentrated on the years after 1945.

The third book is Julia Adams’s *The familial state, ruling families and merchant capitalism in early modern Europe* (Cornell UP, 2005). It shows how Dutch merchant families, in the absence of an English- or French-style monarchy, dominated trade policy and fought among themselves, eventually weakening the state’s economic strength (e.g. the East Indies Company marginalized the West Indies Company). It is a useful study, though of a situation not as unique as the author may believe, and her reading could be more up to date.

The last book is Karin Ugé’s *Creating the monastic past in medieval Flanders* (York Medieval Press, 2005). It is in fact a study of the historiography/hagiography written in three monasteries

in southern (now French) Flanders: lives of their patron saints and annals and records. All were designed to promote the monastery's prestige and power vis-à-vis other religious establishments and landowners who might dispute ownership of land. The author understands that she cannot always be certain of establishing the real history that these accounts may have modified or embellished, since any account has to be based on documents of the time...

SEPTENTRION

On voit sur la couverture du numéro de juin quatre cochons, apparemment heureux bien qu'ils soient tatoués. Ils sont chinois et le tatoueur est un artiste belge, Wim Delvoye. On peut sans doute dire que pareillement, la Belgique et les Pays-Bas ont marqué la Chine, par les échanges commerciaux. Les Néerlandais ont conquis Taiwan vers 1600, et la « Compagnie d'Ostende » a ouvert le commerce avec Canton en 1722. Les Belges, notamment, ont beaucoup fait pour implanter là-bas l'industrie de l'acier et un réseau ferroviaire. Aujourd'hui, le commerce avec la Chine, sans être très important encore, grandit à vue d'oeil.

Un autre article nous parle des Chinois immigrés en Belgique et aux Pays-Bas. Comme en Amérique du Nord, ils ont vite saisi le besoin qu'il y avait de blanchisseries et de restaurants, et ensuite sont venus magasins d'alimentation, médecins traditionnels, et « artistes, scientifiques et autres. » La génération qui a fondé ces commerces familiaux ne s'est pas bien intégrée dans leur nouveau pays, mais leurs descendants se sentent plus à l'aise.

En plus des commerçants, la Chine a reçu aussi des missionnaires. Dès 1650, le jésuite Ferdinand Verbiest y a emmené une équipe qui s'est rendu compte qu'il fallait oeuvrer de façon indirecte, en se présentant à cette civilisation avancée comme des scientifiques. Ils ont échoué grâce aux intrigues des scientifiques chinois, et le christianisme a été interdit. Nouvelle tentative au XIXe siècle, menée par un frère du Coeur Immaculé de Marie - un scheutiste, comme on disait - du nom de Ferdinand Verbist (attention, ne pas confondre...). Cet ordre a connu un grand succès en Mongolie intérieure à force de fonder des villages agricoles, mais l'invasion japonaise, puis la prise du pouvoir par les communistes, ont détruit leur oeuvre.

La section du numéro consacrée à la Chine contient aussi un conte de J.J. Slauerhoff et quelques poèmes, tous inspirés par ce pays. La littérature et les beaux-arts ne sont donc pas oubliés. Un autre article nous présente l'oeuvre de Jeroen Doorenweerd, qui crée des lieux calmes en modifiant un endroit existant. Par exemple, il alimente les écrans moniteurs de sécurité dans un grand port avec de beaux panoramas transmis en direct du monde entier, ou bien il aménage légèrement une usine abandonnée dont on voit alors le côté impressionnant même dans son état délabré. Au théâtre, Johan Simons offre un bel exemple des avantages mutuels découlant des échanges de personnes et d'idées entre les Pays-Bas et la Flandre. Il met en scène des victimes de la pauvreté, de la politique, des dieux – les tragédies classiques grecques l'attirent tout aussi bien que des pièces nouvelles.

Deux sujets permanents dans *Septentrion*, reliés l'un à l'autre, sont présents dans ce numéro. Primo, Paris vu par un Néerlandais ou un Flamand. Cette fois, il s'agit de Geert Mak, qui trouve

que les Parisiens, malgré la transformation de leur ville depuis un siècle, restent attachés à la campagne. On voit bien ici le procédé qui a rendu cet historien très populaire: il relie le présent au passé pour faire voir la pertinence de l'histoire pour nous tous. Et secundo, un souvenir de l'Institut néerlandais à Paris et de Sadi de Gorter, le diplomate qui l'a animé si longtemps avec un enthousiasme qui a vaincu toutes les obstacles. Celui qui se souvient de lui, c'est Pieter van den Blink de l'hebdomadaire néerlandais *Vrij Nederland*.

Et en quatrième de couverture, on nous offre une scène érotique de *Mira*, film de Fons Rademakers, « l'inventeur du long métrage de fiction néerlandais, » mort le 21 février. Film que j'avoue ne pas connaître. *Max Havelaar* et *De aanslag*, si.

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